



## **State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION**

### **Stevens-Johnson Syndrome Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis, another form of Stevens Johnson Syndrome - are severe adverse reactions to medication; and

**WHEREAS**, almost any medication, including over the counter drugs, can cause Stevens-Johnson Syndrome; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the New England Journal of Medicine, over 2 million Americans fall ill and are hospitalized every year from taking these recommended drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, of that 2 million that are admitted, over 140,000 are never released; and


**WHEREAS**, recognizing the early symptoms of Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and prompt medical attention are the most invaluable tools in minimizing the possible long-term effects Stevens-Johnson Syndrome may have on its victims; and

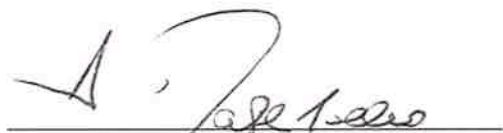
**WHEREAS**, the health and safety of our citizens is of utmost importance and the State of Rhode Island is committed to raising awareness and supporting all efforts to minimize the effects of life-threatening diseases such as Stevens-Johnson Syndrome; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim August 2012 as Stevens-Johnson Syndrome Month and encourage all citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this month.



Given under my hand and the great  
seal of the State of Rhode Island  
and Providence Plantations,  
this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2012

  
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**Lincoln D. Chafee**  
Governor

  
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**A. Ralph Mollis**  
Secretary of State